

REMARKS

The rejections of:

Claims 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over WO/39253, as evidenced by U.S. 6,296,943 (Watanabe et al), and

Claims 10-13 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, EP 0909784 (Nissan), are respectfully traversed.

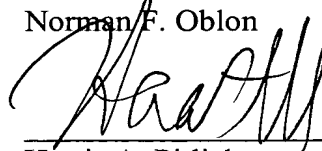
Above-amended Claim 17, which is the sole independent claim, is coextensive with Claim 1 of US 6,626,987, which issued from the parent of the present application, regarding particles (c). Watanabe et al and Nissan were cited in the parent application. Neither Watanabe et al nor Nissan disclose or suggest presently-recited particles (c). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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